THE WATERMENS SVIT, *Concerning Players.*

doue-
mouthes o-
haue and doe daily scandalize mee, and withall I know I shall purchase a generall thankes, from all honest men of my Company) to be assured to gain the hatred of some that loue me wel, and I affect them no worse, onely for my playne truth and discharging my conscience; But fall back, fall edge, come what can come I am resolued and without feare or flattery thus I begin.

In the month of Ianuary last 1613. there was a motion made by some so the better sort of the company of Watermen, that it were necessary for the releefe of such a decayed multitude to pettition to his Maiesty, that the Players might not haue a play-house in London or in Midlesex, within foure miles of the city on that side of the Thames. Now this request may seeme harsh and not well to be disgested by the Players and their Apendixes, but the reasons that mou'd vs vnto it being charitably considered, makes the suite not onely seeme

reaſonable, but paſt ſeeming moſt neceſſary to be ſued for, and tollerable to be granted.

Our petition being written to purpoſe afforeſaid, I was ſelected by my company to deliuer it to his Maieſty and follow the buſineſſe, which I did with that care and integrity, that I am aſſured none can iuſtly taxe mee with the contrary. I did ride twiſe to Theobalds, once to Newmarket, and twice to Royſtone, before I could get a reference vpon my pettition, I had to beare my charge, of my company firſt and laſt, ſeauen pound two ſhillings, which horſhire horſemeat and mans meat brought to a conſumption, beſides I wroat ſeuerall pettions to moſt of the right honorable Lords of his Maieſties Priuy C[illegible] [illegible]ly affected

Eſſex, then after
yeare 1588) to make Watermen good ſeruiceable inſtru- [illegible]at great deliuerance in the
ments, with their loſſe of liues and limbs to defend their Prince and Country. Moreouer many of them ſerued with Sir *Francis Drak*, Sir *Iohn Hawkins*, Sir *Martin Frobuſher* and others, beſides in Cales action, the Iland voyage, in Ireland, in the Lowcuntryes, and in the narrow ſeas they haue beene, (as in duty they are bound) at continuall command, ſo that euery Sommer 1500. or 2000. of them were imployed to the places aforeſaid, hauing but nine ſhillings foure pence the month a peece for their pay, and yet were they able then to ſet themſelues out like men, with ſhift of Aparell, linen and woolen, and forbeare charging of their Prince for their pay ſometimes ſixe months, nine months, twelue months, ſometimes more, for then there were ſo few Watermen and the one halfe of them being at ſea, thoſe that ſtaid at home had as much worke as they could doe.

Afterwards the Players began to play on the Bankſide and to leaue